

Applicant: Kari M. Mäki
Application No.: 09/966,424
Art Unit: 3629

Remarks

Claims 2–11 and 19–20 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12–18 have been canceled. Claim 20 has been added. In the Office Action dated Oct. 27, 2003, claims 1–11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. All the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over *EP 0 822 473*, in view of *Motoyama*, or further in view of *EP 0 825 506*. Claim 19 was further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over *EP 0 822 473*, in view of *Motoyama*, or in view of *EP 0 825 506* and further in view of *Article 8/1996* or *Article 3/2000*.

The present application claims priority from Finnish application No. 990715 filed March 31, 1999; therefore *Article 3/2000* is not a reference.

Claim 19 has been amended to add the limitation of claim 12 wherein the audio or video signals are transmitted together with data between the production plant and the service unit. In this way phone or videoconferencing is available to support communication not only between machines but the people operating the machines. Claim 19 has further been amended to address the 112 objection to note that the collected information is sent “by or through the Internet.”

Claim 20 is based on paragraph [0017] of the application. The art of record does not show a paper mill, a board mill, a pulp production plant, or a paper finishing plant in which data is gathered and sent to a remote service unit which utilizes the data to schedule maintenance periods, anticipate future maintenance needs and install spare parts before an actual malfunction occurs.

Dependent claims 2–11 have been amended to be dependent on new claim 20. Claim 3 has been amended for clarity.


The test for obviousness must be applied at the time of the priority of the invention, March 31, 1999, not with hindsight and not based on the current widespread application and understanding of the Internet which we have today. The art of record does not teach what the inventor has done prior to March 1999.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

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Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.
Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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